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Title: Promote Designated Breastfeeding and/or Breast Pumping Areas in Places of Public Accommodation

Introduced by: Mia E. Layne, MD, for the Resident and Fellow Section

Original Author: Mia E. Layne, MD

Referred to: Reference Committee D

House Action: **AMEND**

Whereas, the State of Michigan passed Public Act 197 of 2014, the “Breastfeeding Anti-Discrimination Act,” which prohibits discriminatory practices, policies, and customs in the exercise of the right to breastfeed and provides for enforcement of the right to breastfeed and related remedies, and

Whereas, a “place of public accommodation” refers to a business, an institution, or any public entity that provides accommodations to the public, and

Whereas, places of public accommodation are not mandated to provide designated areas to breastfeed or pump breast milk, and

Whereas, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recognized the importance of protecting, promoting, and supporting breastfeeding due to its many known benefits for infants, children, and mothers, and

Whereas, the CDC has confirmed that breastfeeding rates have continued to rise nationally with increases of about 2 percentage points in breastfeeding initiation, and breastfeeding at 6 and 12 months, and

Whereas, the state of Michigan’s rates are lower than the national averages for continuation of breastfeeding at 12 months with the national average breastfeeding rate at 12 months being 25.5% and 24.0% for the state of Michigan¹, and

Whereas, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has identified that while the most recent rate for the initiation of breastfeeding is 63.63%, it sharply declines to 26.38% by two months and to 1.36% by 11-plus months²; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That MSMS encourage places of public accommodation to provide designated breastfeeding areas to breastfeeding mothers in order to enhance the goals supported by Michigan’s “Breastfeeding Anti-Discrimination Act,” which is Public Act 197 of 2014.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE

¹ <http://www.cdc.gov/breastfeeding/pdf/2012BreastfeedingReportCard.pdf>
² http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/BF_101415Fall2015_503533_7.pdf